



EP0579381

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Claims

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Drawing

**Mattress for retarding development of decubitus ulcers.**

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Inventor(s): TAPPEL JAMES G (US); HOPPER CHRISTOPHER J (US); TRAVIS STEPHEN J (US)
Applicant(s): STRYKER CORP (US)
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Abstract

Between an upper cover 11 and a lower cover 12 and between bottom foam sheet 26 and top foam sheets 67 and 68 the mattress has an inflatable bladder 41 surrounded on three sides by relatively stiff foam elements 31, 32 and 38. A control unit 51 is located in recesses 58 and 62 in stiff foam panels 57 and 61 which fill the foot end of the mattress. Connectors 53 and 54 of the control unit 51 are coupled to the bladder 41 by hoses 42 and 43 so that air can be pumped into or bled from the bladder to control the pressure in accordance with the output of a pressure sensor. The bladder contains foam material with a series of holes through it to cause different stiffness at different parts of the mattress. Cables 17 and 19 emerging from a hole 28 in the centre of the bottom of the mattress connect the control unit 51 to an AC/DC converter which supplies power to the control unit and

to a hand-held pendant for remote control of the control unit. 

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